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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 53% Partly Cloudy Sensex 65,675 | Nifty 19,675 | Gold 60,230 | Silver 72,236 | Dollar 83.13 | Euro 90.22 | GBP 103.42

‘Along 350 km of roads in 19 wards, 30% of stretches have no footpaths, 17% have dark zones, 14.5% are encroached’

THE WALKING CLASS HEROES

‘Improving walkability in city to cost Rs 1,500 cr’

| Iffath.Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A study conducted between March and August this year put to test a new approach for improving walkability in Bengaluru.

The pilot study - Walkable Bengaluru - was carried out in 19 wards, covering 350 km and 185 junctions using ‘Step Up’, a planning tool developed by the organisation, Sensing Local.

It revealed that 30% of the 350 km stretch surveyed had no footpaths and showcased the budget estimation to fix walkability in the 19 wards at about Rs 109 crore.

The walkability assessment involved a comprehensive evaluation of footpaths and critical junctions with the aim of enhancing safety, comfort and being inviting for all.

Recognising that budgets at a ward or city level are limited and cannot cover all the roads that need it, a strategic approach had been devised.

The survey conducted by Sensing Local was carried out in association with area specific communities,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

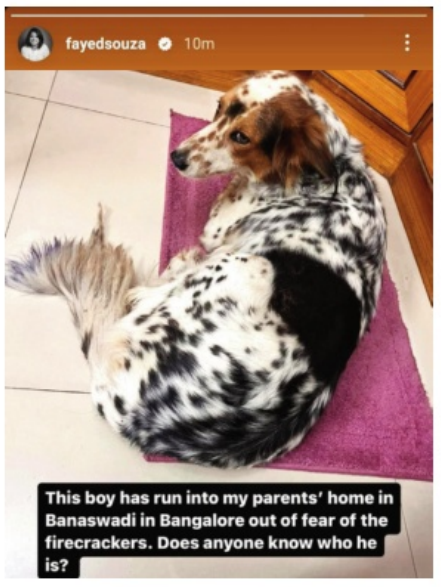
KAUSHIK JN

“The idea is to provide safe, comfortable, accessible footpaths for citizens. There is a need for an integrated approach...

— Ankit Bhargava, co-founder, Sensing Local

Cracker fallout: 200 pet dogs missing

Animal activists blame police, state pollution control board for negligence towards apex court order


fayedsouza 10m
This boy has run into my parents’ home in Banaswadi in Bangalore out of fear of the firecrackers. Does anyone know who he is?

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With not many citizens following the Supreme Court order on bursting of crackers during Deepawali, around 200 pet dogs went missing in the city.

The owners concerned are leaving no stone unturned to ensure safe return of their pets. Animal activists blamed the police and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board for being negligent towards ensuring the public follow the apex court’s order.

PAGE 6
DID WE MAKE SOME NOISE? YES

The Supreme Court passed the order restricting bursting of crackers between 8 pm and 10 pm across the country. There is no count on the hapless street dogs that are missing due to indiscriminate bursting of crackers with no empathy towards the strays.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Comic play

The team of Vishwapatha Kala Sangama is presenting a humorous satire based on a TV show this month. Known to perform Kannada theatre across Bengaluru, the team is all set to perform its famous comedy play Pukkate Salahe, which translates to free suggestion. The play is written by comic writer H Dundiraj and directed by Ashok B. The audience will get a chance to hear various dialects of Kannada during the performances.
Where: Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, NR Colony, Basavanagudi; When: Saturday, November 18; 7:30 pm; Contact: 9845977184, 9916863637

02 Ghazal show

Don't miss the soulful Ghazal music performance by Muqtalif. Shreyas on tabla, Dheeraj Bannerjea on guitar, and Aparupa, the singer, will be performing to make us ponder about trials and weaknesses and celebrate silence.
Where: Atta Galatta, 178, 5th Main, 9th Cross, 1st Stage Indiranagar (opp Café Terra)
When: November 18; 1 pm

03 Musical environment

Get ready for unique live music experiences at Echoes of Earth, which is a celebration of music, art, culture, and conservation efforts. The 6th edition of the festival highlights the interconnectedness of India's richest biodiversity hotspot, the Western Ghats. This year, the festival features artists such as Haribabu Natesan, the Aravani Art Project, and Siddharth Karawal.
Where: Embassy International Riding School
When: December 2 and 3

Lingering discomfort: Joint pain post dengue

City doctors emphasise that dengue can lead to development of arthritis following recovery from disease; say this can be short-lived or last for up to six months after viral infection

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Experts say that after recovering from dengue, many patients are still suffering from joint pain, which can be quite painful

With the recent downpour, experts say that there may be one more spike in dengue cases, as the vector-borne disease has seen a resurgence this year, with many getting admitted to hospitals as well. However, the latest trend worrying health experts is that dengue is triggering the onset of arthritis, as many are complaining of acute body and joint pains post-dengue recovery. Doctors say that, like chikungunya, dengue can also affect body joints and ligaments.

Dr Raghavendra H (Consultant - Rheumatologist, Manipal Hospital, Hebbal) told BM that in addition to the rise in dengue cases that have recently been reported in Bengaluru, some dengue fever complications are now being observed.

"It is common for dengue patients to experience some form of muscle and joint pain; however, after recovering from dengue, many patients are still suffering from persistent joint pains, which can be quite painful. These pains can vary in duration, with some being short-lived while others can last for up to 3 to 6 months. Previously, we commonly associated this condition with chikungunya, but this year, more cases of prolonged joint pains after dengue or dengue-like illnesses are being reported," he said. Scientific data and historical records indicate that after viral infections, patients may develop a form of mild arthritis, which can be short-lived or last for up to 6 months. Those who have an underlying predisposition or risk factors for developing arthritis in the future are more likely to experience post-dengue or post-chikungunya-related joint pains, he informed.

Furthermore, Dr Aravind SN (Lead Consultant - Internal Medicine, Aster RV Hospital) said that an increasing number of people who have recovered from dengue who had covid-like symptoms and got treated during the pandemic are complaining of persistent joint and muscular pains.

"Though severe arthritis is more common in chikungunya fever, post-pandemic, we see a lot of dengue patients coming with joint and bone pains. The most affected are young adults. Immunocompromised patients with underlying issues such as diabetes, chronic ailments of the liver and kidneys, and compromised respiratory function are more susceptible to suffering from severe forms of arthritis post-dengue. This is mainly associated with vitamin D3 deficiency. Maintaining holistic health and good nutrition balance helps combat the issue. Micronutrient-deficient people showcase persisting joint and muscle pain. Hence, it is imperative to increase vitamin levels in the body," he explained.

> **"Though severe arthritis is common in chikungunya fever, post-pandemic, we see a lot of dengue patients coming with joint pains** – Dr Aravind SN

The common treatment for this problem involves prescribing mild doses of arthritis medications to alleviate the pain. However, experts say that it's not advisable to use painkillers or anti-inflammatory medications regularly for an extended period because this condition can persist for more than two to three months.

Dr Raghavendra mentioned, "Long-term use of these medications can sometimes cause other health issues. Therefore, it is better to consult a rheumatologist if you have joint pains after recovering from dengue."

Move for a cause: Diabetes awareness in action

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In a spirited effort to raise awareness about the importance of lifestyle changes in managing diabetes, a large turnout of health-conscious individuals joined the Diabetes Stride Walkathon on Tuesday morning. Led by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao and renowned Sandalwood actress Amulya Gowda, the event aimed to emphasise the significance of adopting healthier habits to combat the rising prevalence of diabetes in Bengaluru.

"It is important for people to change their lifestyle to control diabetes. Many people are suffering from diabetes in Bengaluru. One needs to have healthy habits to manage and control diabetes. Walking and good food habits will be a great help for diabetics to control diabetes. It was my first time participating in a walkathon to create awareness among the public about diabetes. I participated in a walkathon to promote blood donation a few years ago," said Amulya Gowda. Lions District 317F organised the walkathon on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. The walkathon began at the Mahatma Gandhi statue on MG Road and proceeded towards Vidhana Soudha and Kanteerava Stadium.

District Coordinator for Diabetes Vijay Kumar A said that Lions District 317F plans to increase the diabetes care centres from 18 to 83 this year. "As of now, there are 18 diabetes care centres working for the benefit of people with diabetes. Some of these diabetes care centres are organising camps for diabetes once a week, fortnightly, and monthly based on their available resources," he said.

The organisers made arrangements for blood sugar testing for the benefit of the public. Around 100 people, including the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, availed of the facility.

BS Nagaraj, District Governor, added that some of the Lions Clubs in the district have provided medicines to the needy.

Raju Chandrasekhar, District Chairman for Humanitarian Causes, said, "The need of the hour is for the public to change their lifestyles. Many people are not giving importance to their health."

Karnataka mulls Rs 5L dog-bite compensation

The Karnataka government on Wednesday submitted before the High Court that a discussion of stakeholders called by the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, discussed payment of compensation of Rs five lakh to families of people who die due to dog bites.

It also discussed Rs 5,000 as compensation for those who suffer injuries. The HC directed that another meeting be held within four weeks to come up with a comprehensive plan. Hearing a public interest litigation regarding seeking implementation of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, the HC directed the government to give wide publicity to the guidelines about feeding street animals and conflict resolution.

"There cannot be a dispute on the aspect that unless steps are taken to make the public at large made aware of guidelines, there shall be no effective implementation of guidelines and, to achieve this purpose, the State can certainly give wide publicity to these guidelines in the official websites of the state government," the division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit said.

The HC also suggested that the State can circulate pamphlets and make announcements on TV and in cinema halls if necessary. It said that these were mere suggestions and the government could explore all possible ways to get the message across to the public.

Tumakuru-based advocate Ramesh Naik L filed the PIL. **PTI**

Purr-plexing pay disparities

Karnataka vets express concerns as private agency pays less than mandated by Union Ministry

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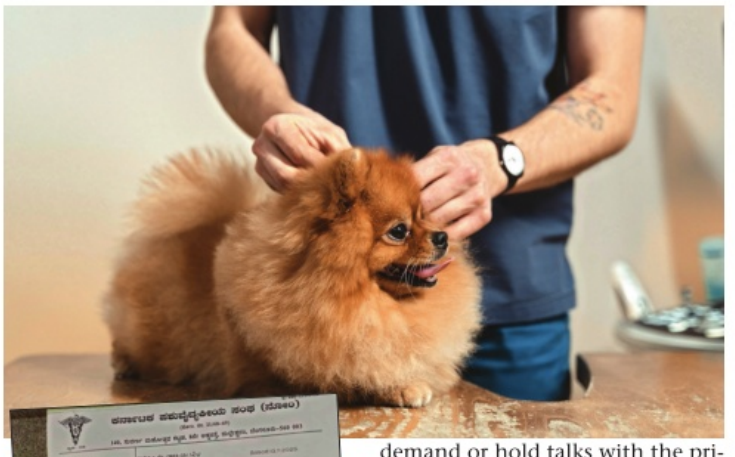

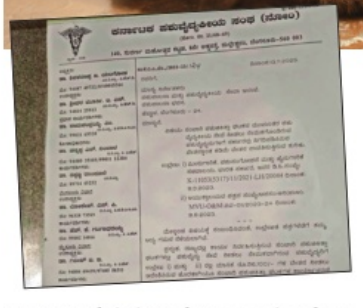

In Karnataka, approximately 300 veterinarians dedicated to animal welfare through mobile veterinary units (MVUs) are expressing concerns over salary discrepancies. According to reports, the government has delegated the recruitment and management of veterinarians to a private agency, which is paying salaries below the rates set by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

On March 9, 2023, the Union Ministry issued a letter revising the monthly salary for veterinarians from Rs 50,000 to Rs 56,100, along with a 3 per cent annual increment, as approved by the competent authority. However, veterinarians working under the private agency claim that their salaries range from Rs 40,000 to Rs 45,000, falling significantly short of the Rs 16,100 and Rs 11,100 increments mandated by the Union Ministry.

It is learnt the agency has fixed Rs 45,000 as a salary for veterinarians with experience or retired from service and Rs 40,000 for the freshers. "I am retired from service and signed an agreement with the private agency that has fixed me Rs 45,000 as a salary. I get Rs 50,000 as a pension per month. I have no problems working as a veterinarian," said Dr Halagappa from Ramanagar.

Meanwhile, the veterinarians who joined duty three months ago are complaining about paying less than the salary the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying fixed. "We expect justice from the government. We are not happy with the salary fixed by the private agency," said a veterinarian on the condition of anonymity.

A veterinarian has said that around 150 veterinarians are freshers among the 300 veterinarians recruited by the private agency. "We have complained to the authorities about the lower salary being paid by the private agency. We cannot demand or hold talks with the private agency as we are recruited on a contract basis," said the veterinarian pleading anonymity.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Veterinarians' Association wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department stating that an agency assigned to recruit and maintain mobile veterinary units has been paying salaries to the veterinarians less than the amount fixed by the government.

"We have explained to the Secretary of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department about how the private agency is paying less salary to the veterinarians. The Secretary has assured us to look into the matter. I hope the veterinarians working with MVUs get justice soon," said Dr M Ramachandraiah, General Secretary, Karnataka Veterinarians' Association.

Man arrested for online hate speech

A man was detained by Jayanagar Police for making hurtful and provocative remarks about Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha MP DK Suresh and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Facebook. The man allegedly made several remarks on social media criticising the Muslim community and Congress.

Ranjith RM has been identified as the man who was arrested. He describes himself as a cybercrime detective at the police department in his Facebook profile.

The police learned that he worked for a private company in the city after his arrest.

On October 4, Ranjith posted, 'Kill DK brothers.' The leader of the Jayanagar Youth Congress, Sharath, had complained to the police about the post and included pictures of Ranjith's posts in his complaint.

The accused was the target of a manhunt by the Jayanagar Police, who also apprehended him in response to the allegation. It's unknown if the accused is a member of another political group. Ranjith was questioned by the police regarding the purpose of the posts, and a complaint has been filed. **BMB**

Police detain 3 for reckless wheelies

Three teenagers have been taken into custody by the traffic police for performing wheelies on public property. The Kamakshipalya Traffic Police have filed fourteen cases related to bike stunts carried out on public roadways.

Wearing devil masks, the teens, who were detained by the police, are accused of performing wheelies on the road, filming their stunts, and posting them to social media.

The parents of the minors detained for conducting bike stunts were fined Rs 25,000 by the police. The Kamakshipalya Traffic Police issued a warning to youngsters on the social media site 'X' not to perform wheelies while driving.

In connection with other wheelie cases, the Kamakshipalya Traffic Police confiscated about 14 bikes and detained over seven minors. They have been charged under section 279 of the IPC. According to the police, the suspects allegedly performed bike stunts on November 14 at around two in the morning on Outer Ring Road and in nearby regions.

To apprehend the culprits, the Bengaluru West Traffic Division assembled a special team comprising over 13 police officers. The police claim that, after receiving multiple complaints from locals and on social media, action was taken to apprehend miscreants. **BMB**

BM PILES DAY INITIATIVE:
Dial-up an expert to know more

Date: November 17, Friday
Time: 12.30 pm to 01.30 pm
Call-In Phone: 080 40877665

Wondering about the impact of piles on the digestive system? Curious about the rise in cases, especially among kids? Seeking effective solutions and cures?

Join our informative phone-in program organised by Bangalore Mirror in collaboration with SMILES (Research Centre for Constipation, Piles, Fistula, Pilonidal Sinus, Colorectal Cancer, Crohn's, Ulcerative Colitis, IBS, and other colorectal disorders). Renowned colorectal surgeon Dr Parameshwar CM will share expert insights and address your queries on piles, fissures, and related conditions.

Don't miss the chance to stay informed and gain valuable knowledge on colorectal health. Be a part of the **World Piles Day initiative** and empower yourself with knowledge.

Feb 17, 2024: It's a date... with high-security plates

In a relief to vehicle owners, deadline to get HSRPs affixed gets extended, with non-compliant vehicles facing penalties ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000

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Vehicle owners in Karnataka have been granted an additional three months to secure their High Security Registration Plates (HSRP), with the new deadline set for February 17, 2024. Transport Minister N Ramalinga Reddy stated, "The earlier deadline for HSRP was November 17. However, due to ongoing court proceedings initiated by a few parties, I have officially signed the order providing an extension."

This brings relief to millions of vehicle users, considering the low HSRP penetration. Out of the 1 crore vehicles in the state, less than 1.80 lakh vehicles have obtained HSRP. Consequently, there has been a demand for an extension. As per the order, a penalty of ₹500 to ₹1,000 could be imposed on vehicles without HSRP. Only vehicles registered before 2019 must replace their old registration plates with HSRP, as HSRP has been the default since then.

Meanwhile, there are allegations from some individuals that they have to pay extra for obtaining an HSRP. In response, Reddy stated, "If anyone has complaints, they can report to the transport department. We will inquire and take action. In cases of serious and repeated complaints, we will blacklist them."

The Transport Department has mandated High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) for all vehicles registered before April 1, 2019. A transport department official explained, "A unified web portal, www.siam.in, enables vehicle owners to order HSRPs, select dealer locations for affixation, and choose convenient installation dates and times. Affixing HSRPs is a cashless transaction, with fees payable online.

Out of the 1 crore vehicles in the state, less than 1.80 lakh vehicles have obtained high security registration plates

The State Transport Department has approved the option for affixation at the vehicle owner's residence or workplace. In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Transport Department, no transactions at the RTOs, such as change of ownership, address modification, duplicate RC, insurance updates, fitness approvals, etc., shall be allowed without the affixation of HSRP in the state.

"An HSRP is only issued after the vehicle's digital registration and is linked to the specific vehicle. So, these cannot be used on a different vehicle

We advise people to be careful of counterfeit and look-alike HSRP plates. These plates are designed to resemble High Security Registration Plates in appearance but lack the unique laser codes, a key feature of HSRP plates, and other security and safety features such as high visibility in low light due to retro-reflectivity. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued an advisory dated June 9, 2023, bringing attention to the issue of unauthorised High Security Registration Plates being manufactured and affixed by unapproved vendors in various states across India."

HSRP is a security feature that incorporates embossed unique numbers, holograms, and other elements to enhance vehicle identification and recognition security. "HSRPs are crucial for vehicle security and recognition. HSRP is an aluminium-made number plate fixed onto a vehicle with a minimum of two non-reusable snap-on locks and includes various identifiable features. On the top left corner of an HSRP, there is a blue-coloured chromium-based hologram of Ashoka Chakra (20mm x 20mm) in the top left corner, a unique laser-branded 10-digit permanent identification number (PIN) in the bottom left corner, and hot-stamped film applied over the numerals and alphabets of the registration number, preceded by an 'IND' acronym. An HSRP is only issued after the vehicle's digital registration and is linked to the specific vehicle. Consequently, these plates cannot be used on a different car and serve as a deterrent to theft and misuse," an official explained.

Let some walking heads roll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wherein many residents and volunteers joined in. It was done in 19 wards including CV Raman Nagar, Dattatreya Temple, Padarayanapura, HAL Airport , Kodigehalli, Shantala Nagar, Neelasandra, Koramangala, JP Nagar, Basavanagudi, Marappanapalya, Nagapura, Jayachamarajendra Nagar, Kempapura, Vasanthapura, Yelachenahalli, Iblur, Agara and Amruthahalli.

Findings

The top five issues in footpaths across the 350 km were related to quality, encroachment and dark zones. Over 30% constituted no footpaths, followed by 17% with dark zones - non functioning or missing street lights - alongside 14.5% showing encroachment by vendors and shops; encroachment by vehicle parking on footpaths were at 12.8%. Another factor was a level difference in footpaths in 7.7% of surveyed areas.

The top three problems observed in 185 junctions were absence of pedestrian crossings (32%), speeding vehicles (31.6%) and vehicles going the wrong way (18.8%). Ankit Bhargava, co-founder, Sensing Local said: "Through the initiative, we have audited multiple parameters pertaining to both footpaths and junctions. Of the total 20 issues that include absence of footpaths, dark zones, silt on road, parking, broken footpaths, vendors/shops, hanging wires, construction debris, blackspots and others, audited across 350 km of footpaths, 11 issues occur in all the wards. Within these, the top 5 issues fall under the subcategories of encroachment, footpath quality and unsafe zones. Of the six issues audited across 185 junctions, the top two issues were found to be speeding vehicles and the lack of pedestrian crossings."

Least walkable & most walkable wards

The three wards of Padarayanapura, HAL Airport and Kodigehalli had the highest rates (concentrations) of issues per km, twice as high as most other wards. Wards Shantala Nagar, Nagapura and CV Raman Nagar had the lowest rates (concentrations) of issues per km.

The footpath audit at Padarayanapura revealed a 2-km encroached stretch, 57 garbage spots, over 2.5 km with no footpath and 0.4 km of dark zones. The junction audit highlighted issues like no pedestrian crossings, absence of street lights, speeding vehicles and vehicles going in the wrong way. The total estimated budget to make Padarayanapura walkable was estimated at Rs 309 lakh.

Bhargava further added: "The idea is to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible footpaths for citizens. There is a need for an integrated approach where solutions are a combination of monitoring, maintenance, street infrastructure and planning. This will require involvement of different government agencies such as BBMP for relaying footpaths, redesigning junctions; BESCOM for fixing street lights and upgradation, obstructing electric boxes and transformers; BSWML for removing garbage vulnerable points; and DULT for area level parking plans.

We have decided to reach out to the departments, highlight survey results and come out with action plans. We will also be carrying out workshops to focus on issues like vending/shops and parking on footpaths, in order to come up with solutions."

According to Bhargava, budget allocations are very important too: "Rs 25 lakh was to be allotted to footpath repairs and maintenance in every ward. However that has not been carried out till now as per our conversations with officials. The estimated budget of Rs 109 crore to fix walkability in 19 wards is not a huge amount. It should be made a priority to allocate and use the funds to ensure safe walkability. The project budget requirement for improving walkability in the city according to our estimation is Rs 1,500 crore."

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Setback to setback

Jayanagar

Building at 10th Main, 42nd Cross, Jayanagar violates regulations with no setbacks, footpath encroachment, commercial use of basement parking, and construction of four illegal upper floors.

Hop, skip & jump

Basavanagudi

Poorly maintained roads and footpaths cause inconvenience to the public opposite the BSNL office in Shankarpuram, Basavangudi.

Pothole woes

Neelasandra

For a month, persistent pothole issues have plagued Bazaar Street, especially along Military Road. Despite submitting complaints to BBMP, no corrective measures have been initiated.

'Faster aid for accidents needed'

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In a distressing incident near the Bengaluru International Airport (BIAL), a father and son were involved in a road accident, prompting concerns about the airport's emergency response system. The incident unfolded early on Tuesday morning, and according to Tanveer Pasha, the president of Ola, Uber Drivers, and Owners' Association in Bengaluru, who witnessed the event and recorded a video, the response from BIAL authorities was delayed and inadequate.

As alleged by Pasha, the accident occurred within a kilometre of BIAL's departure point. "The victim, after dropping his wife at the airport, was driving his son in a Santro. Attempting to overtake a vehicle due to ongoing metro work, the man collided with a metro board, resulting in significant damage to the right side of the car and injuries to both occupants," he added.

Pasha reached Bengaluru from an overseas work trip, and while he was heading home, he came across the incident. "I came to the spot about 10 minutes after the accident, and yet no help was provided till then. The man's leg was bleeding continuously, and the child, approximately five years old, was scared and crying with a bleeding mouth. Despite the short distance from the airport, no immediate action was taken by the authorities," he informed.

An airport authority official reached the scene and coordinated for an ambulance, but it took 30–35 minutes for the ambulance to arrive. During this time, a towing vehicle was dispatched for the damaged car, but Pasha emphasised the urgency of medical assistance over vehicle retrieval. He criticised the delay, stating, "This was the utter negligence of the airport authorities."

A BIAL spokesperson said that they reviewed CCTV recordings and can confirm that an ambulance reached the site within 15 minutes

After a considerable wait, the ambulance eventually reached the scene and transported the injured father and son for medical attention. Pasha indicated the possibility of filing a police complaint against the incident. "I have other eyewitnesses who can speak about the incident to the police," he asserted.

Meanwhile, a BIAL spokesperson said, "Both Mr Kumar and his child sustained injuries in the incident. We have reviewed CCTV recordings at the incident site and can confirm that an ambulance reached the incident site within 15 minutes, and the injured were immediately taken for first aid treatment at the airport medical centre."

They added that they were then taken to a city hospital for further treatment. "We can confirm that the media reports mentioning that it took 35 minutes for the ambulance to arrive at the incident site are wrong," they explained.

Driving force: Countless vehicles filling the roads

Bengaluru now has more than one crore private vehicles operating on its road, reveals data; mobility experts say numbers speak poorly of city's administration

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The department also recorded 54,626 new registrations of non-transport vehicles in October

The total number of private vehicles on Bengaluru's roads has breached the one crore mark. According to data provided by the Karnataka Transport Department, Bengaluru now has over 1.003 crore private/non-transport vehicles plying on city roads. These include two-wheelers, cars, omnibuses, tractors, private service vehicles, etc. Out of these, a little over 99.3 lakh are just cars and two-wheelers.

The department also recorded 54,626 new registrations of non-transport vehicles in October. The monthly data of newly registered private vehicles has been breaching the 50,000 mark over the last few months, and the city continues to witness a steady rise in the number of private vehicles.

In January of this year, as many as 48,756 private vehicles were registered, including 34,791 two-wheelers and 13,737 cars. Nearly 36,000 vehicles were registered in February, over 39,000 private vehicles were logged in March, and 47,824 vehicles were registered in April. In May this year, a total of 52,592 private vehicles were registered, followed by 53,926 private vehicles in June, 50,861 private vehicles in July, 57,000 new private vehicles were registered in August, and 51,561 vehicles were registered in September.

With this, Bengaluru's vehicular population stands at over 1.13 crore as of October 31, 2023 (nearly 89% are non-transport vehicles).

The numbers speak poorly of Bengaluru's administration, say mobility experts. They opine that this lack of planning and governance will lead to the city's eventual collapse as it continues to cross every threshold of vehicular traffic stress.

"Truly developed cities have one characteristic: master planning. For instance, Singapore has had a master plan for 50 years. However, Bengaluru stands out for its lack of planning and the resultant chaos. And the statistics speak for themselves. In Tokyo, the city with perhaps the best mass transit networks in the world, less than 10% of the population owns private vehicles. Singapore, which has recently declared its intent to become a 'zero car' city, already has private vehicle ownership below 20% of the population. In comparison, around 80% of residents own private vehicles in Bengaluru," said Sandeep Anirudhan, a public mobility proponent.

Mobility experts say this trend needs to be reversed immediately to improve the quality of life in the city. Instead of upgrading and expanding road infrastructure, a reliable and affordable public transport system should be the priority.

Some also highlight the failure of the government to constitute the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC) under the Constitutional 74th Amendment (Nagarpalika) Act in 1992, which was proposed to brainstorm solutions for Bengaluru's traffic problems.

"It is a simple correlation. The lower the availability of mass transit options, greater the number of private vehicles, and the more traffic congestion. The lack of a mass transit system is the reason Bengaluru always sticks out like a sore thumb, right on top of any traffic congestion index. However, authorities have refused to learn and adopt 'planning' or build institutional capacity for planning by bringing in the Metropolitan Planning Committee, despite it being the law as per the 74th Amendment," added Anirudhan.

> **"The lower the availability of mass transit options, greater the number of private vehicles**
>
> –Sandeep Anirudhan

According to another city-based public mobility expert, a major part of the problem is the lack of awareness among citizens about the impact of increasing vehicular traffic on the environment and health.

IN BRIEF

Pananthur RuB: 'Keep oversized vehicles away'

The South Western Railways (SWR) has clarified that the recent damage to the height barrier near the Panathur railway underbridge (RuB) in Bellandur Road Station was due to an unknown vehicle hitting the structure around 3 am on November 11.

The railways also noted that, initially, the bridge was constructed as a waterway bridge with no vehicular movement. However, owing to public pressure and an increase in road vehicles, the bridge has been used for vehicular movement. To protect the bridge from being damaged, the height gauge has been installed at a height of 3.3 m according to the set standards. Prior to this incident, damage to the height gauge had also occurred due to oversized vehicles grazing it.

The SWR has appealed to vehicle drivers to follow the rules and desist from attempting to drive oversized vehicles in the interest of their own safety as well as railway safety. The SWR also said that it is collaborating with the local police and transport authorities to help raise awareness regarding the height barrier. **BMB**

Deepawali cracker bursting: 2 lose vision

It turned out to be a dark festival as two lost their vision. The state-run Minto Hospital reported 32 cases, of which 15 were severe injuries. Six cases were operated on, out of which two lost complete vision and five will get partial vision. According to the doctor, the remaining cases will have to be observed closely the following day. Sankara Eye Hospital reported 42 cases from Saturday until last night. Two cases of a seven-year-old boy and an eight-year-old are grievous injuries. Both are said to be based on observation, and the percentage of vision loss cannot be determined yet. Narayana Nethralaya reported 24 cases as of Tuesday night. Eye injuries during Deepawali are a recurring issue, often attributed to fireworks. This year, more than 90 eye injury-related cases have been reported. **BMB**

Bengaluru's noisier Deepawali raises concerns despite ban on non-green crackers; while air quality improves, PM 2.5 surge raises health risk

Garima Prasher
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Despite a ban on non-green crackers, Bengaluru experienced a louder Deepawali compared to 2022, with noise levels surpassing safe limits set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Data from ten online noise monitoring stations by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) revealed decibel values ranging between 57.5 dB and 68.8 dB, breaching CPCB guidelines.

Barring two locations - Mysore Road and Basaweshwaranagar- all other stations recorded higher percentage variation of noise levels this Deepawali compared to last year's. The percentage variation of noise levels recorded during 2022 Deepawali, when set side by side with 2021 Deepawali, were much lower.

As per CPCB's specifications, the acceptable noise level (dB) in a silent zone during the day is 50 dB, and at night time is 40 dB. In the case of residential areas, the permissible sound limits are 55 dB during the day and 45 dB at night. The permissible noise level for industrial areas is 74 dB during the day and 70 dB at night.

However, the average noise level for Deepawali days in silent zones ranged between 57.5 dB and 60 dB. In residential areas, this value ranged between 62.2 dB and 66.1 dB; in commercial and industrial areas, it ranged between 65.1 dB and 68.8 dB.

Experts say while the state pollution control board had pulled up its socks before the festival and tried to enforce the ban on red crackers (non-green crackers), enforcement gaps in some critical areas might have led to this outcome.

"KSPCB had tightened the noose on illegal firecrackers more than a month ago. Checks were happening, and awareness was being created. However, people start buying crackers months ahead of the festival. While red crackers are not being manufactured in Karnataka, the influx from bordering states such as Tamil Nadu has been astonishing. KSPCB should collaborate with the police department and make red cracker checks mandatory and routine. Check posts should have been established six to seven months before the festival, and awareness activities should have begun simultaneously. KSPCB should also collaborate with Karnataka Transport Department to make the ban a bigger success in the future," said Harini Raghavan, Co-founder, PACT (Public. Health. Action).

According to officials from KSPCB, although the ban on red crackers (non-green crackers) was implemented with full force this year, extra care will be taken next year to ensure no loose ends.

> **"KSPCB had tightened the noose on illegal firecrackers more than a month ago. Checks were happening, awareness was created**
> –Harini Raghavan, Co-founder, PACT

"Most of the stores our officials visited before and during the festival sold green crackers. So, red crackers might have sneaked clandestinely from neighbouring states, mainly Tamil Nadu. We tried to spread awareness by reaching out to schools and various media outlets. Many seizures of red crackers also took place after deputy commissioners promulgated ban orders. We took up the issue with higher officials in the Police department and established checkposts on borders. Multiple agencies worked in tandem, and we succeeded to a large extent. However, we are planning to prepare a government order along the lines of the ban on PoP Ganesha for Deepawali 2024. The GO will be issued in April to ensure timely intervention," said a senior official from KSPCB.

Cleaner air this year

As per data from KSPCB, the Air Quality Index (AQI) score of Bengaluru was better this year compared to 2022 Deepawali. While many parts of the city had recorded AQI under the 'very poor' category last year, this was not the case this year.

While the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) at Jayanagar, Kavika, and Silk Board Junction recorded an AQI score of above 300 during Deepawali 2022, this time around, the worst AQI recorded was 268 (Silk Board Junction).

However, according to a report by NCAP Tracker, Bengaluru witnessed a 55% surge in particulate matter (PM) 2.5 levels during the festival. City-based healthcare experts say the drastic increase in air pollution levels, poses a severe threat to public health.

Why indiscriminate bursting of crackers must stop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Some people have to post photos of the pet dogs that strayed from their homes due to bursting crackers. If these pets are geotagged, it would have been easier for people to trace and restore them with their owners without any hassles," said chief veterinary officer (mobile & extension) of the department of animal husbandry & veterinary services Dr Prayag HS who promoted geotags for pet dogs.

Expressing concern over hundreds of missing dogs due to bursting of crackers, Arun Prasad, an animal activist, said the police failed to enforce the Supreme Court order. "No one is bothered to stop bursting crackers that are banned. People are allowed to burst green crackers at designated places. However, people continued bursting crackers as per their whims and fancies," said Prasad.

Sujaya Jagadish, an SPCA member, said people in villages have taken up bursting crackers. "I have observed in my own village - Mittur, Kolar district, that monkeys, cows, birds and dogs, all exhibit fearful reactions as a result. This fear can lead to stress, anxiety, and even physical harm in many animals," said Jagadish, adding that how a three-legged ageing street dog died of heart failure last year during Deepawali as the sound of fireworks petrified her.

Nevina Kamath, secretary of Action for Animal Justice said lost, injured and panicked pets are a yearly feature during Deepawali, Ganesha festival and other festivals.

"Uncontrolled and unregulated bursting of high decibel crackers have caused immense distress to the elderly, invalids and infants. With a burgeoning population, and rise in disposable incomes, the frequency and volume of crackers being burst has gone up exponentially. In spite of clear directives to the state governments by the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal, there is no implementation on ground, thanks to a lethargic police force and cynical public that actually feel cracker bursting is a tradition and a necessity for celebrations," said Kamath.

She noted that despite several citizens' groups having requested the police commissioner personally to ensure that police patrolling is done with public address systems informing about timings, dates and the permissible types of crackers, nothing happened.

"The police control room was flooded with complaints from irate citizens who were furious with the indiscriminate bursting of crackers, but to no avail. Likewise, the KSPCB too did not conduct sufficient campaigns before or after the festive season to ensure the message went across. Environmentally sensitive citizens and those who don't find pleasure in loud blasts and billowing fumes are forcibly subjected to torture. Urban wildlife including avian and arboreal species are simply blasted out of their habitats," she said.

She asked that if cigarette smoking is banned in public as it is a health hazard, why aren't the cracker loving citizens told to carry out their activities in remote places where no other components of the ecosystem are affected.

Rental scam: 25 victims seek justice

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A man defrauded over 25 people extracting lakhs of rupees with a promise of renting flats. The victims allege that the police officer handling the case was protecting the perpetrator and refusing to file an FIR. In one instance, a 31-year-old single mother, employed as an HR professional, encountered a property listing on an app. Accompanied by a friend, she inspected the flat on September 14, meeting Aswath Reddy. Reddy showcased his residence, residing with his family, and upon the victim's interest, requested a 1 lakh deposit.

"Initially, I gave Rs 15,000 in advance, stating that the rest of the amount would be paid on the day of the agreement. He agreed, but two weeks later, he claimed he needed the money as his father was admitted to the hospital. I refused and paid the remaining Rs 85,000 at the Varthur registrar's office. He gave me the key, but when we went to the flat the next day, his family refused," said Surumi.

The accused family insisted that they would not be vacating the house, claiming it was their ancestral property.

The victim later went to the police station and discovered that several people had registered complaints against the same man in the past two weeks.

"The PSI was unwilling to file an FIR and just noted down my number on a blank page. The PSI is also friends with the accused's sister and kept telling us not to involve the family members. The police official even threatened and scolded us, advising us not to go to the accused's house and not to take action against the family," she added.

Amit, a victim who relocated from West Bengal to Bengaluru, faced a similar ordeal. After finding the property online, he contacted Reddy, paying an advance to secure the apartment. Despite repeated attempts to move in, Reddy delayed. When Amit sought his deposit back, he faced threats. Amit, at the police station, encountered two others reporting the same fraud. He alerted the apartment complex's security guard to share his contact for those facing similar issues. As calls poured in daily from others who lost money, the PSI, initially reluctant, eventually filed the FIR when 25 victims united.

Amit claims that the police officer made excuses for the accused and constantly told the victims not to file a case against the family members.

Amit said when one of the other victims went to see the flat and observed the family shifting, he called 112. "The PSI got angry over the fact that we called 112".

HEALTH TIP: Tingling or numbness in the tips of your fingers, tongue, toes, or lips can be an indication of low calcium levels in your body

Almonds have a high magnesium content. This helps in relaxing the muscles, which will lessen cramps during your period

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LET THE MUSIC HEAL YOU

Insulin injections could one day be replaced with rock music – new research in mice

More than 37 million people in the US have diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, 8.4 million Americans needed to take insulin in 2022 to lower their blood sugar. Insulin, however, is tricky to deliver into the body orally because it is a protein easily destroyed in the stomach.

While researchers are developing pills that resist digestion in the stomach and skin patches that monitor blood sugar and automatically release insulin, the most reliable way currently to take insulin is through frequent injections.

I am a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Indiana University School of Medicine, where my colleagues and I study drug delivery systems. Researching innovative new ways to get medications into the body can improve how well patients respond to and comply with treatments. An easier way to take insulin would be music to the ears of many people with diabetes, especially those who aren't fans of needles.

In a recent study in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, researchers engineered cells to release insulin in response to specific sound waves: the music of the band Queen. Though it still has a long way to go, this new system may one day replace the insulin injection with a dose of rock 'n' roll.

What is diabetes?

Diabetes is a chronic disease that arises when the body fails to make enough insulin or respond to insulin. Insulin is a hormone the pancreas makes in response to the rise in sugar concentration in the blood when the body digests food. This crucial hormone gets those sugars out of the blood and into muscles and tissues where it is used or stored for energy.

Without insulin, blood sugar levels remain high and cause symptoms that include frequent urination, thirst, blurry vision and fatigue. Left untreated, this hyperglycemia can be life-threatening, causing organ damage and a diabetic coma. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is the No. 1 cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations and adult blindness, making it the eighth most common cause of death in the U.S.

Treating diabetes is straightforward: When the body is lacking insulin, give it more insulin. Scientists have mastered how to make the hormone, but direct injection is the only effective way to get it into the body. Diabetic patients usually have to carry insulin vials and needles wherever they go. Considering that many people fear needles, this may not be an ideal way to manage the disease.

This challenge has sparked researchers to look into new ways to deliver insulin more easily.

What is cellular engineering?

Cells are the basic unit of life. Your body is composed of hundreds of different types of cells that carry out specialized functions. In some diabetic patients, the pancreatic beta cells that make insulin have malfunctioned or died. What if there were a way to replace these defective cells with new ones that could produce insulin on demand?

That's where cellular engineering comes in. Cellular engineering involves genetically modifying a cell to perform a specific function, like producing insulin. Installing the gene that makes insulin into cells is not difficult, but controlling when the cell makes it has been a challenge. Insulin should be made only in response to high blood sugar levels following a meal, not at any other time.

Scientists have been exploring the idea of using ion channels – proteins embedded in a cell's membrane that regulate the flow of ions such as calcium or chloride – like a remote-controlled device to activate cellular activity. Cells with specific types of ion channel in their membranes can be activated in response to certain stimuli, such as light, electricity, magnetic fields or mechanical stimulation. Such ion channels exist naturally as sensory devices to help cells and organisms respond to light, magnetism, touch or sound. For example, hair cells in the inner ear have mechanosensitive ion channels that respond to sound waves.

Combining cellular engineering with Queen

Bioengineering professor Martin Fussenegger of ETH Zurich, a university in Basel, Switzerland, led a recent study that used a mechanosensitive ion channel as a remote control to signal cells to make insulin in response to specific sound waves.

These "MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells" – MUSIC is short for music-inducible cellular control – were cultured in the lab next to loudspeakers. His team tested a variety of musical genres of different intensities and speeds.

Among the songs they played were pop songs like Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean," Queen's "We Will Rock You" and the Eagles' "Hotel California"; classical pieces such as Beethoven's "Für Elise" and Mozart's "Alla Turca"; and movie themes such as Soundgarden's "Live To Rise," which was featured in "The Avengers," a Marvel film. They found that pop music heavy in low bass and movie soundtracks were better able to trigger insulin release compared with classical music, and cells were able to release insulin within minutes of exposure to the song.

In particular, they found that the Queen song "We Will Rock You" most faithfully mimicked the rate of insulin release in normal pancreatic beta cells.

The team then implanted the MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells into diabetic mice. Listening to the Queen song for 15 minutes once a day returned the amount of insulin in their blood to normal levels. Blood sugar levels returned to normal as well. In contrast, mice that were not exposed to the song remained hyperglycemic.

Could music make insulin in people?

Despite these promising results, much more research is needed before this musical approach to producing insulin can be considered for human use.

One concern is the possibility of making too much insulin, which can also cause health problems. Fussenegger's study found that talking and background noise such as the racket made by airplanes, lawn mowers or firetrucks did not trigger the insulin production system in mice. The music also needed to be played close to the abdomen where the MUSIC-controlled, insulin-releasing cells were implanted.

In an email, Fussenegger explained that extensive clinical trials must be performed to ensure efficacy and safety of the technique and to determine how long the cellular implants can last. As with introducing any foreign material into the body, tissue rejection is also a concern.

Cellular engineering may one day provide a much-needed alternative to frequent injections of insulin for the millions of people with diabetes around the world. In the future, different cell types could be engineered to release other drugs in the body more conveniently.

Bill Sullivan, Indiana University, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Shift work perils

High BP
Short sleep lengths, daytime napping, shift work and even long sleep lengths have been linked to an increased risk of elevated blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, according to a new study.

Circadian rhythm
The study, published in Nature Communications, is the first study to demonstrate that independent of other factors including age, sex and Body Mass Index (BMI), circadian rhythm-disrupting behaviours, including shift work, have an adverse effect on blood pressure regulation.
The body's circadian clock governs almost all processes in the human body, including metabolic function, cognition, heart rate and sleep-wake behaviour.

Sleep well
"We found that compromised sleep health or night shift work are associated with elevated blood pressure in both males and females and across all age groups," said lead author Morag Young, Associate Professor from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne.
"What we've found is that having circadian rhythms out of sync even slightly has an adverse impact on blood pressure," Young added.

7 hours optimum
The study found that permanent night shift workers who slept less than five or six hours were most at risk, but those working mixed shifts also showed elevated blood pressure. Interestingly, sleeping for too long a period also had a disruptive effect on circadian rhythms, Young said.
"Seven hours of sleep was found to be the optimal length of sleep for maintaining healthy blood pressure," Young said. "We found that too little sleep (less than seven hours) and too much sleep (anything more than seven hours) for adults also had a negative impact. —IANS

Octogenarian on legal quest for his father's arrears dating from 1979

Terming him an unfortunate victim of insensitive bureaucratic red-tapism, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the authorities to release the arrears of a Village Officer dating from 1979 to 1990.

The Village Officer's 88-year-old son has been fighting a legal battle for decades to secure the arrears amounting to Rs 37,000.

"It is unfortunate that the Village Officer became another victim of insensitive bureaucratic red tapism and died without receiving the compensation. His son who is an octogenarian is still fighting for his father's right. It is rather too surprising that the State has taken an untenable stand that the petitioner's father was not entitled for the compensation because he was not sanctioned ad hoc compensation," a division bench of Justice P S Dinesh Kumar and Justice T G Shivashankare Gowda noted in their recent judgement.

TS Rajan, the son of the late TK Sheshadri Iyengar, a resident of Rajajingar in Bengaluru, approached the High Court in 2021 with a writ petition.

His father was working as a 'Patel' in Thangali village, Kadur Taluk, Chikkamagaluru district.

As per an order passed by the HC and upheld in an appeal (1997) subsequently, the petition filed by the Karnataka State Patel's Sangha was allowed and Rajan's father was also one of the beneficiaries.

The order specified a compassionate allowance of Rs 100 per month from August 1979 to June 1990.

Rajan's father filed several applications and representations for the allowance but it was not granted.

After his father's death, Rajan submitted a representation to the Tahsildar of Kadur requesting for the payment. It was rejected in 2017.

Rajan then approached the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, which also rejected his application, following which he approached the HC.

The Tahsildar had rejected the request made by the petitioner on the ground that his father had not received ad hoc allowance.

Rajan's advocate argued before the HC that such an endorsement by the State Government is unsustainable in law because it was for the government to sanction and release the ad hoc allowance also.

The HC in its judgement rejected the contentions of the State and said, "The contention urged on behalf of the State Government that since the petitioner has not been granted the ad hoc compensation and therefore, he is not entitled to claim the arrears is rather surprising. We may record that it is not disputed by the government that the petitioner's father was working as Patel of Village Thangali."

The HC rejected the Tahsildar's endorsement and said, "Once, there is no dispute that petitioner's father was working as Village Officer of Thangali Village, State ought to have considered the claim for arrears. In view of the same, the reason recorded by the Tahsildar that the petitioner is not entitled to arrears as his father did not receive the ad hoc allowance is wholly untenable."

The HC ordered that the State should calculate and pay the arrears as well as the ad hoc allowance at the rate of Rs 100 between 1979 and 1990.

Further, the allowance and arrears from 1990 to 1994 should be paid at the rate of Rs 500 per month, the HC said. It also ordered a simple interest of 10 per cent on the amount from the date of entitlement. The payment is to be made within three months, the court ordered. **PTI**

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I **Anitha Agarwal** W/O Suresh Kumar Agarwal R/o Flat 2F Maurya Center Building 48 Gariahat Road Kolkata, Calcutta South Divn, West Bengal dohere by inform to the general public that On 16.10.2023, while I was waiting for airport bus near HSR Layout BDA Complex have lost Tamilnadu, Krishnagiri district Echaguru village related Flat Number 119C, 122B, Original document number 5098/1995, 5094/1995. **Lost Report Number PO1796230601330 (HSR PS)** If anybody finds the above said documents or us possession, please handover the same to the above said address or to the nearest police station or Contact 9830059550.

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I **Sri Satyanarayan Gupta** S/o Badri Prasad Gupta R/o Mcleod Street Park Street Circus Avenue Kolkata Calcutta South Divn, West Bengal dohere by inform to the general public that On 16.10.2023, while I was waiting for airport bus near HSR Layout BDA Complex have lost Tamilnadu, Krishnagiri district echaguru village related Flat Number 127, VGP Rose Garden (Fruit)-3 Original document number 5059/1995. **Lost Report Number PO1796230601331 (HSR PS)** If anybody finds the above said documents or us possession, please handover the same to the above said address or to the nearest police station or Contact 9052000444.

I U.krupa shanthi sheela W/O. late U. Venkata Ramana Residing at D-103, DS Max splendor nest apartment,Chikkabanavara, abbigere,Bangalore -560090. Karnataka. Have lost my ORIGINAL Property Document NO. 6116/2002. Registered FIR NO:0804360/2023 dated :11/11/2023

CHANGE OF NAME

I Manish Kumar P S/O, Parasmull N R/o No 1/2, 3rd Cross, Near 119 Bus Stop, Marappa Garden Benson Town Bangalore have changed my name to Manish Kumar.

I Ajanta Vendon , residing in 3201,Casa Serinita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Ajunthaa Venddon for all purposes.

I, TARANNUM ZARAR W/o Syed Atti Ur Rehman, R/at No.101, Bibi Jaan Manzil, 1st Floor House, No.78, 1st Main, BHEL Layout, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041 have changed my name to TARANNUM, vide affidavit dt: 08.11.2023, before notary R Basavaraja, B.lore.

I Sulatha Kumari W/O. Raghupathy .k R/o N0.j-402,vaishnavi Rathanam,n0-1 , s m Road , t Dasarahalli,bengaluru-560057 have changed my name to Sulatha Raghupathy.

I SYED SAYEED AHMED S/o Syed Siraj Ahmed R/o Flat No: 106 3rd Flr No 90/3 M M Residency Model House Street Basava -nagudi Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to SYEED AHMED for all purposes

I Naveen Kumar R S/O, Ramachandra R/o 36 Raghavendra Nilaya, 4th Main, Nanjappa Layout, Near Ganesha Temple, Adugodi, Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Naveen Kumar.

I Mohammed Tameem S S/o Late Mohammed Saleem R/o KG Halli Bangalore have changed my name from Mohammed Tammeem to Mohammed Tameem S for all future purposes

I ANJUM SAYEED W/o Syeed Ahmed R/o Flat No: 106 3rd Flr No 90/3 M M Residency Model House Street Basavanagudi Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to SYEDA ANJUM ARA for all purposes

I Shreya R/o T-3 Tower-3 Mana Tropicale off. Sarjapur Road Gatahalli Chikkanyakanahalli Bengaluru Karnataka-560035 have changed my name to Shreya Tiwary.

I Vridhoo Vendon, residing in 3201, Casa Serinita, Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bengaluru 560077 have changed my name to Vridhu Venddon for all purposes.

I, MEENA N, Residing at 1629/1, Mallechakunj, 5th B Cross,17th Main, Bank Colony, 80 Feet Road, BSK 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560050 have changed my name to MEENA N JAIN, vide affidavit dated 07/11/2023, sworn before notary Venkataramu H G, Bangalore.

I, Sri Deepthi Tanikella w/o Ravikiran Tanikella R/o Flat.202, Jeya Tulip Sector C, 2nd cross Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Sri Deepthi Settipalli Affidavit Dt.15/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SANTHOSHKUMAR D V Residing at No.134, Near Sanimahatma Temple Devarabisanahalli, Bangalore - 560103 have changed my name to SANTHOSH KUMAR D U vide affidavit dated 07/11/2023 sworn before notary Venkatramu H G, Bangalore.

I, Polepalli Rajeshwari W/o Manjunatha Raju. N R/o 9,Sneha Nilaya,1st cross,1st main, chamundeswari layout, doddabomasandra, vidyarana pura, Bangalore-560097 have changed my name to Polepalli Rajeswari for all purposes.

I, Sonam w/o Abhishek Balaji R/o No.343, Anjanadri, 3rd main, 3rd cross, 2nd block, 3rd phase, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Sonam Abhishek affidavit Dt.15/11/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SUJATHA IYENGAR, R/at Ab 101, Apline Block, Golden Grand Apartments, Tumkur Highway Road, Near Metro Station, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022 have changed my name to SUJATHA SHRIDHAR IYENGAR, vide affidavit dated 08.11.2023 sworn before notary V.Anjanappa, Bangalore.

I, ANSARI MAHJABEEN ABDUL LATEF R/at No. 274, 1st Floor Macca Masjid Thimmaiah Road Cross, Shivaji Nagar, Bengaluru-560051, have changed my name to MAHJABEEN ABDUL LATIF ANSARI vide affidavit dated: 14/11/2023 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I Sweety Navalkha W/O, Manish Kumar R/o No 1/2, 3rd Cross, Near 119 Bus Stop, Marappa Garden Benson Town Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Sweety Jain.

Kohli's record ton, Shami's magnificent 7 power India to final

(1) Mohammed Shami (4L) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Tom Latham (R) during the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup one-day international (ODI) first semi-final match between India and New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday; (2) Rohit Sharma takes the catch to dismiss New Zealand's Mitchell Santner off the bowling of Mohammed Siraj (3) Shreyas Iyer plays a shot during the semi-final match; (4) Virat Kohli and wife Anushka Sharma blow kisses to each other after his record breaking century

Virat Kohli, India's cricket icon with magic touch

Virat never played for records'; they were just added bonus it would seem. Virat Kohli on Wednesday struck his 50th one-day international century, taking him past Sachin Tendulkar's all-time record, but he will remain wary of any comparisons with his fellow cricket icon. Kohli, who equalled Tendulkar's feat of 49 tons on his 35th birthday on November 5, reached the milestone in his 279th innings in the World Cup semi-final against New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

"Virat never played for records. They happened as he progressed," Kohli's biographer Vijay Lokapally told AFP. "His batting skills and work ethic combined to create magic. Longevity leads to milestones and that is what Virat has inherited from stalwarts like Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Sachin Tendulkar."

Kohli has invoked a similar emotional response from cricket-crazy Indian and global fans that was once enjoyed by Tendulkar. His number 18 jersey has an overwhelming presence in all Indian grounds. The number was selected because he made his ODI debut on August 18, 2008, and to honour his father, Prem, who passed away on December 18, 2006.

With more than 26,000 international runs and a total of 80 centuries across three formats, comparisons with Tendulkar are obvious but Lokapally disagrees. "He dislikes this comparison. He has his identity. Sachin Tendulkar has his. Their styles differ," said Lokapally.

"Sachin has faced some ferocious bowlers. Virat has dominated too. Sachin is incomparable. If Virat is enjoying his cricket today it is because of the reputation Indian cricket acquired courtesy of Sachin Tendulkar."

On Wednesday, Kohli reached the milestone with a double off Lockie Ferguson. He jumped for joy and sank to his knees with Tendulkar, his

Bollywood wife Anushka Sharma, and football great David Beckham applauding from the stands at the Wankhede. India skipper Rohit Sharma is a distant third on the list with 31 ODI hundreds.

After his record knock, Kohli said "The great man (Tendulkar) just congratulated me. It feels like a dream. Too good to be true." Tendulkar on "X", formerly Twitter, wrote, "I couldn't be happier that an Indian broke my record. And to do it on the biggest stage - in the World Cup semi-final - and at my home ground is the icing on the cake."

> **"If Virat is enjoying his cricket today it is because of the reputation Indian cricket acquired courtesy of Sachin Tendulkar** – Vijay Lokapally

Known to wear his heart on his sleeve, Kohli has never shied away from a battle on the field and despite his regular brush with controversies the star remains one of the most popular cricketers.

Fans invading the pitch to touch his feet and take selfies remain regular occurences at Indian venues.

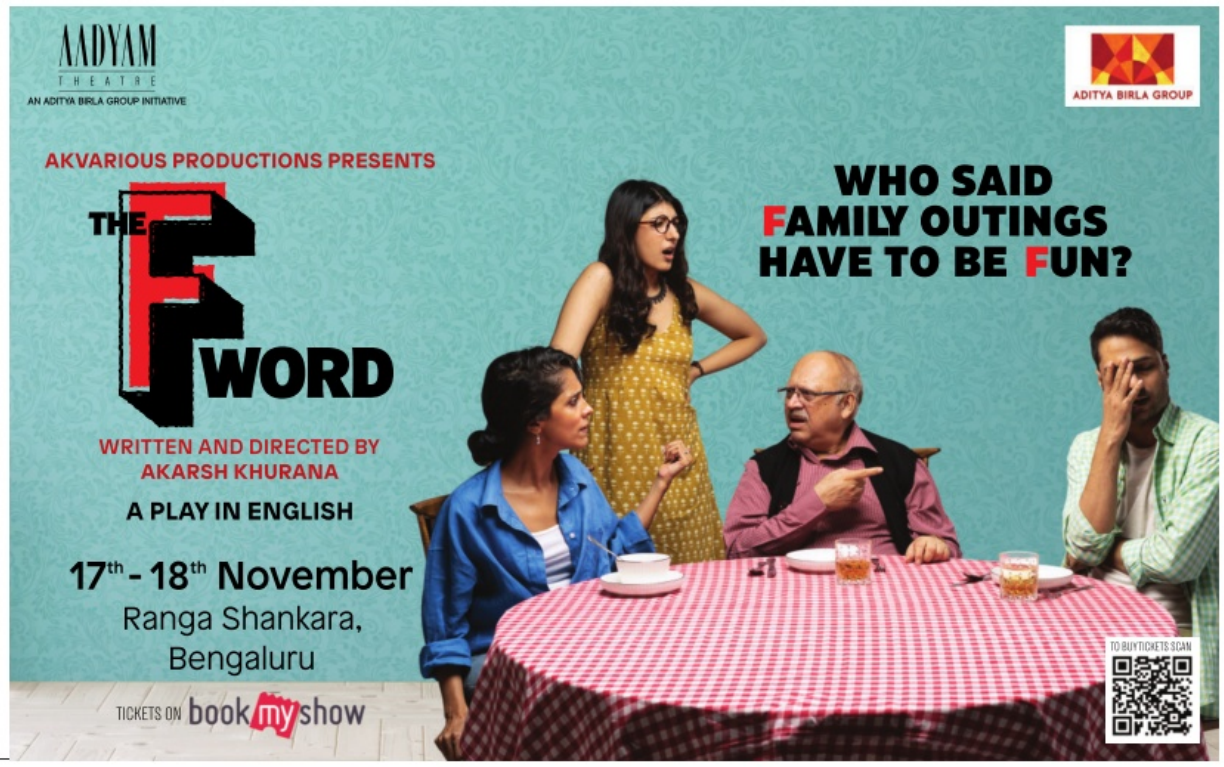
He is also fabulously wealthy, leading India's list of highest-paid athletes with earnings of $33.9 million mainly from brand endorsements, according to analysts Sportico's 2022 list. Kohli went through an extended lean patch that spread across since 2021, failing to reach three figures in over 1,000 days. He quit as T20 skipper in late 2021 and was soon sacked from the ODI captaincy. Kohli gave up leading the Test side too and later talked about his mental struggles during his dry phase, including how he had been "snappy" around wife Anushka.

Kohli then hit his first hundred after a gap of 1,020 days in the 2022 T20 World Cup and has not looked back. When he made his 49th century on his 35h birthday 10 days ago, Anushka wrote on Instagram: "He is literally exceptional in every role in his life". — AFP

Babar Azam steps down as Pakistan captain in all formats

Babar Azam has resigned as Pakistan captain after his team failed to advance from the group stage at the Cricket World Cup. "Today, I am stepping down as the captain of Pakistan in all formats," the batter said in a statement on Wednesday. "It's a difficult decision but I feel it is a right time for this call. I will continue to represent Pakistan as a player in all three formats." The Pakistan Cricket Board named Shan Masood as the new test captain and said the left-handed opener will stay as skipper through the World Test Championship cycle of 2023-25. Masood's first assignment will be Pakistan's tour to Australia next month where it is scheduled to play three test matches. Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Afridi was named T20 captain with Pakistan scheduled to play a five-match T20 series in New Zealand in January after the tour of Australia. The PCB also said it will name the new ODI skipper in due course.

Babar thanked the PCB for choosing him as all-format captain four years ago and said he will continue to support the new captain and "the team with my experience and dedication." Babar scored 320 runs in nine World Cup games at an average of 40 in the ongoing edition. Pakistan won four of its nine games and missed the semifinals after finishing fifth. "I vividly remember the moment when I received the call from PCB to lead Pakistan in 2019," Babar said. — AFP



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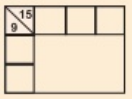
@BangaloreMirror

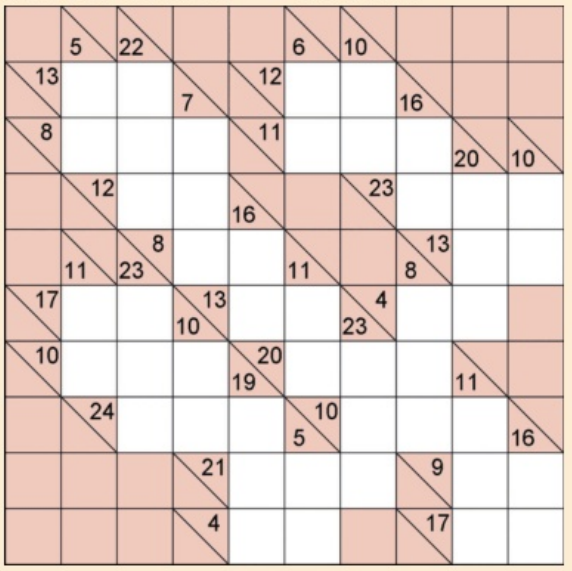
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

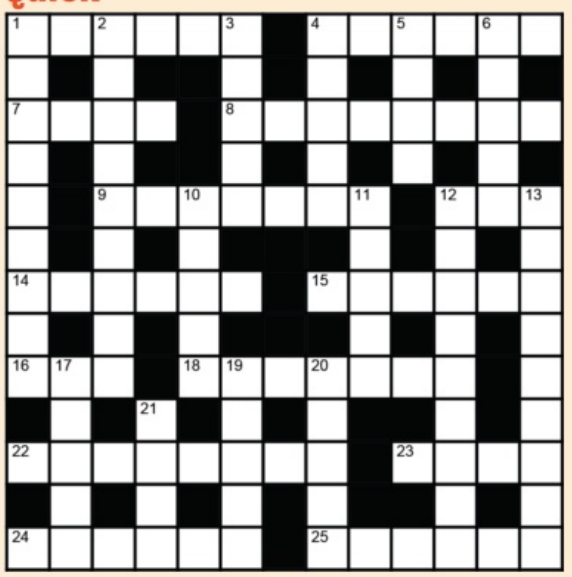


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Make a trip (6)
4 Lecture (6)
7 Venomous snakes (4)
8 Defeated, bested or prevailed over (8)
9 ___ Market: Market In Shivajinagar (7)
12 Male ferret (3)
14 Unforeseen developments (6)
15 Earnestly attempt (6)
16 International news giants (3)
18 Newsman ___ Sardesai (7)
22 Hooked (8)
23 Netting (4)
24 Trifoliate plant (6)
25 Pay out money (6)

DOWN

1 Emotionally shocking (9)
2 Slur (9)
3 French city (5)
4 Strong alloy (5)
5 Engrave (4)
6 Small film role (5)
10 Stringed instrument (5)
11 Shaping machine (5)
12 Toupee or wig? (9)
13 Spoiled the beauty or brightness (9)
17 Tennis star Rafael ____ (5)
19 Fragrant oil (5)
20 Sidestep (5)
21 Capital of Ukraine (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS S

LAI RAS'B SXXR BA KHS XNXJL WXRMZ BA FX CITTXCCQIZ.

Linemaro

I always find you relevant

Mindchow

Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?

Joke of the day

I've got to sit down and work out where I stand

Loop

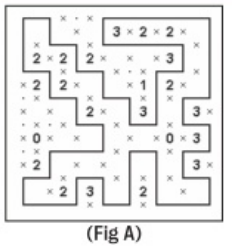
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

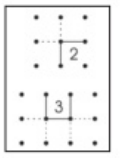
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

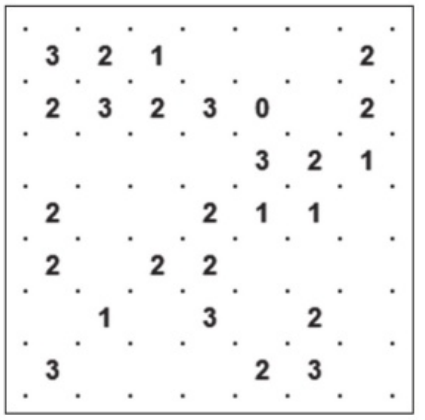
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



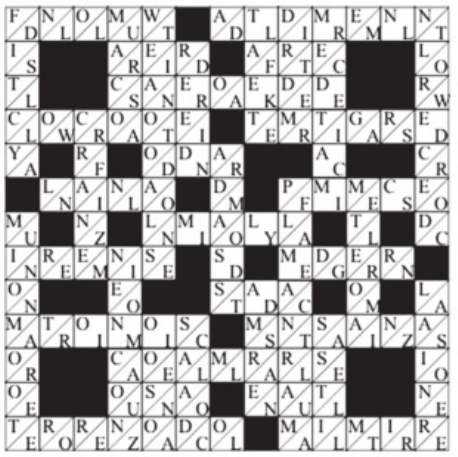
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



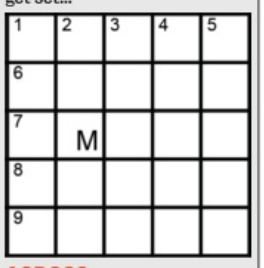
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sicco; 6 Trade;
7 Me den; 8 A be as;
9 Rim me

DOWN

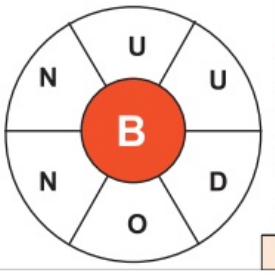
1 Me car; 2 Bam II;
3 Meats; 4 Scene;
5 Red do

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

5	7	4	3	1
1	2	2	6	5
6	6	5	?	
1	2			

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3	4		6	8		
	1						2	
4								3
3		9	6		2	7		1
1								2
8		6	9		7	3		5
5								8
	3						7	
		7	1		9	6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 19

2 4 6 7

Medium ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 15

5 6 7 9

Hard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 11

4 9 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

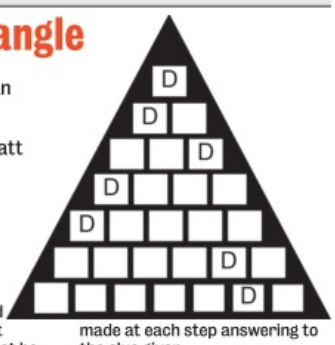
Differences: 1. Mouth is not open as wide. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Button is moved. 4. Tie is missing. 5. Bottom of tie is visible. 6. Finger is moved.

Riddler

I am as bright as the sunshine on a warm day, I can go a long way. I am seen on the young and the old that God made, but I can fade. I have only five letters in my name, and I am painted on both the strong and the lame. I can be as white as pearls, or as yellow as blond curls. I can never grow old, or never be sold, or turn to mold, but I am more precious than gold. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Five hundred
2 Yes for the Russian
3 In addition
4 Lady of Spain
5 Hollywood star Matt
6 Wanderers
7 Marzipan nuts

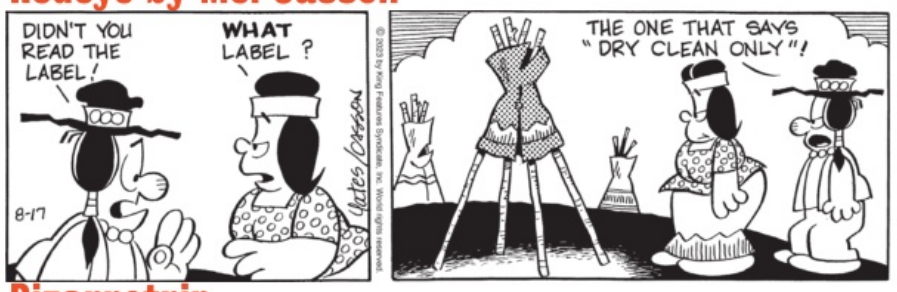


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



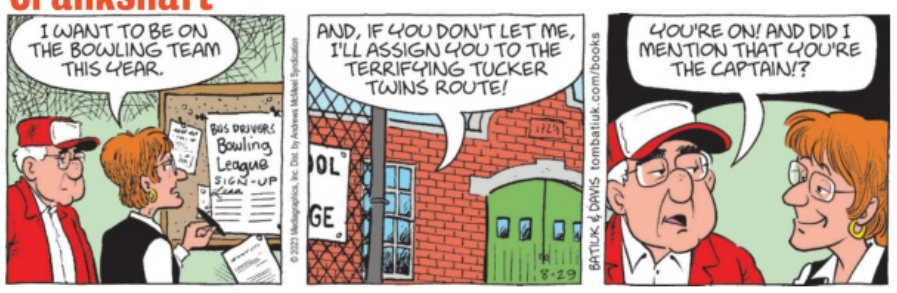
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

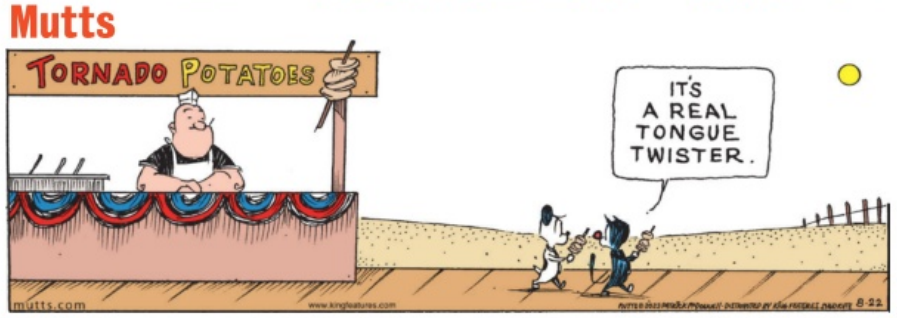
Hart of the city

KNOCK! KNOCK!
HI, LEE!
HI, KAT! HOW DO I LOOK?
LIKE A VERY COOL SHEET OF PAPER.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING FOR!
MESSAGE WRITTEN AND RECEIVED.

Crankshaft


I WANT TO BE ON THE BOWLING TEAM THIS YEAR.
BUS DRIVERS Bowling League SIGN-UP
AND, IF YOU DON'T LET ME, I'LL ASSIGN YOU TO THE TERRIFYING TUCKER TWINS ROUTE!
YOU'RE ON! AND DID I MENTION THAT YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN!?
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy with family matters. You might handle important tasks on the domestic front. Avoid engaging in arguments regarding personal life matters as your arrogance could affect domestic harmony. By late evening, things may come under control. It's advised to follow your intuition before making investments in business.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, Messy situations are under control. You might feel peace of mind and achieve a proper balance between expenditure and earnings, improving your financial health. Avoid excessive travel or overworking, as it may affect your health. Students can start planning their future, while lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, until evening, enjoy your work and domestic life. You might recover some stuck funds. However, by late evening, you may feel dull and experience unknown fears, causing upset. Stress might affect your sleep; consider meditation as advice.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon, turning disappointment into happiness. Focus on your targets and use creativity to make changes in your office or house. Love might be around you, but lovebirds should avoid getting lost in fantasies. Students should avoid speculative study approaches.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, work may keep you busy, and your communication skills might help secure a big order, fostering business growth. You might meet influential individuals aiding your business. Family support in tough work decisions is likely. In love matters, control your words; lovebirds should avoid being too straightforward in conversation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, You'll have parental support and may find success at work, especially in government-related projects. Relations with management might improve, benefiting your work or business. Overseas work-related travel might be planned. Take care of potential infections by drinking plenty of water and using lemon in your food.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may face unknown fears and negativity in your thoughts. Impatience and arrogance might hinder decision-making at work. Seeking elders' blessings might help overcome messy situations. Avoid investing in dead assets and worthless topics in relationships for lovebirds.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may start your day positively, reflecting patience in your work. Enjoy work and remain optimistic about business gains. Emotional bonding with your spouse may enhance family harmony. Job seekers might receive good news.

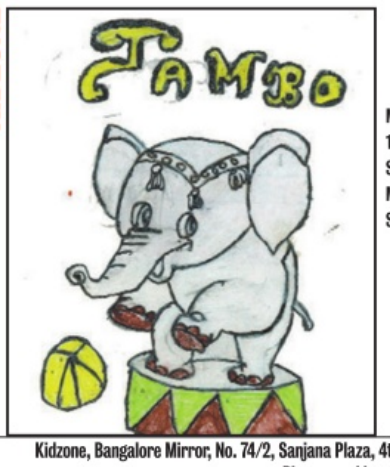
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, a good day at work awaits; you'll perform well and lead efficiently, gaining appreciation from your boss. There might be promotion prospects. Singles may find love in the workplace. Architects, artists, and traders might excel.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is important for domestic life; the focus might be on kids and their education. Good news regarding kids' education might arrive. Buying creative items for the home or office could maintain social status. Wisdom is advised in purchasing decisions. Professionals in the military, management, electronics, and medicine might fare well.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you might feel dissatisfied, facing uncooperative people. Patience is crucial; read documents carefully before signing contracts. Avoid making unnecessary investments. Students should practice patience in their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you'll be energetic and focused on work. Hard work might lead to success, aided by supportive colleagues. A short work-related trip is likely, and good news may come from siblings.

KIDZONE



Mallinath S, 10 Years, St. Aloyius Middle School

Parnasha Kashyap, 10 Years, Geethanjali Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 3÷ 3·2/3
= 3·1/3
= 3/3

BULL'S EYE
bond, bound, UNBOUND

STRIKE OUT

F	L	O	U	T		A	L	I
I		R	E	D		A	T	E
L		S	N	E	A	K	E	D
L	O	C	A	T	E	M	I	G
Y	R	O	D	A		C		R
N	A	N	O	M	P	I	E	C
M	Z	N	I	A	L	L		D
I	R	E	N	E	S	E	G	E
N		E		S	A	C	M	
A	T	O	M	I	C	S	T	A
T	W	I	S	T	S	S	T	R
C	N	N		R	A	J	D	E
A	K		T		O		I	
M		H		R		M		
I	O		A					
A	S	I		A		A		L
M	R	U	S	S	E	L	L	H
U		E		N		E		H
A	S	P	S		O	V	E	R
R		S		T		T		A
C	L	O	V	E	R		E	X

QUICK

T	R	A	V	E	L		S	P
T								E
A		E		A		G		C
C								E
A	D	D	I	C	T	E	D	
A								
C	N	N		R	A	J	D	E
I		O		A				
T	W	I	S	T	S		S	T
A		S		I		A		
U		E		N		E		H
A	S	P	S		O	V	E	R
R		S		T		T		A
C	L	O	V	E	R		E	X

MENSA PUZZLE
2: so that each square block of four numbers totals 15.

SUDOKU

2	8	7	1	3	9	6	5	4
6	3	4	2	8	5	1	7	9
5	9	1	7	6	4	2	3	8
8	2	6	9	1	7	3	4	5
1	7	5	3	4	8	9	6	2
3	4	9	6	5	2	7	8	1
4	6	2	8	7	1	5	9	3
7	1	8	5	9	3	4	2	6
9	5	3	4	2	6	8	1	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Da, And, Dona, Damon, Nomads, Almonds.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 2 + 7 + 4 = 19
Medium
7 – 6 + 5 + 9 = 15
Hard
9 x 7 / 9 + 4 = 11

LOOP

KAKURO

RIDDLER A smile.

QUOTE UNCODE
You don't need to win every medal to be successful.

FAST FIVE

C	I	S	C	O
R	A	T	E	D
E	M	E	N	D
A	B	A	S	E
M	I	M	E	R

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Hot coffee date— Actor Alia Bhatt is all set to appear on the sets of Koffee with Karan Season 8 alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan. Alia took to Instagram that shows she will be in the show in a full-body sequined brown gown accessorised with platform heels

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COOL KAT ON CLOUD 9

Actor delighted with roaring success of her latest film

Tiger 3' is roaring at the box office and Katrina Kaif could not be happier.

"It's truly delightful to witness the widespread entertainment that Tiger 3 is bringing to people across the nation this Diwali. It's amazing to see audiences from all corners of the country joyfully dancing in the theatres! The enthusiasm, cheers, and whistles from the audience reflect the incredible time they are having at the cinemas during this festive season," Katrina said.

Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, 'Tiger 3' stars Salman, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi in the lead roles. In the film, Katrina reprises her role of Zoya. The film minted Rs 44.50 crore on the release day i.e. November 12. It has collected Rs 148.50 crore so far.

On this Katrina further said, "As someone dedicated to providing entertainment, this holds immense significance for me. I take great pride in Tiger 3 and I am elated that each film in this franchise has created enduring memories for the audience to cherish. This year has been phenomenal for Hindi cinema, and I am thrilled that Tiger 3 is being enjoyed by audiences in the theatres."

Katrina's performance in the film undoubtedly left fans in awe -- especially her towel fight scene.

Speaking about it, Katrina earlier said, "I love doing envelope-pushing, risky action sequences on screen and the Tiger franchise has always presented me with the opportunity to take things several notches higher when it comes to being a female action heroine! I have lived the life of a super spy vicariously through Zoya and I love the fact that she is one hell of a fighter! She can take anyone and just like Tiger, she can also be the last person standing! That's new and exciting for me and for the audience because they can see a woman who can fight as good as a man."

She added "I'm aware that the towel fight sequence at the Hammam from Tiger 3 has gone viral! It was a very, very difficult sequence to shoot because it has incredible hand to hand fighting inside a steamy Hammam room so gripping, fending, landing the punches and the kicks everything was very difficult. Hats off to Adi for thinking of this brilliant scene because I don't think there has been a fight sequence like this featuring two women on screen in India! The way Maneesh and the action team executed it was just incredible - everything was detailed out. So, it was a total team effort which people are loving! Zoya takes on a brilliant fighter played by Michelle Lee and I'm sure the intensity, the aggression, the brutality in the scene is going to make people gasp! For me, this is one of the best action sequences I have ever seen women do on screen. It's simply brilliant. **—ANI**

Now, that's a real marvel

Actress Scarlett Johansson's return as Black Widow in the MCU is a rather curious topic. Given the MCU's history of bringing the characters back from the dead, the possibility of reviving the spy-assassin has been frequently discussed, and Johansson says that it would be a "real marvel" if Marvel could actually pull it off.

In a recent appearance on the 'Today' show to promote her skincare line, Johansson addressed speculation of her return as redhead assassin. Coyly replying to the question, she said: "Like a loophole? I feel like that's kind of the end, right? Like can you come back? Could it be a vampire version of the character? Cause I'm here for that, like a zombie version, maybe."

Later, in a separate conversation with Australian TV personality Savannah Guthrie, she said: "It would be a miracle if she was able to return somehow. It would be a marvel, but who knows? I'm not sure." **—IANS**

No double role please

Sharmiela Mandre has decided to skip taking up a double role – that of producer and actor – in the future. Sharmiela is the grand-daughter of Ramananda Narayanrao Mandre, a well-known distributor, producer and founder of now defunct Sangam Theatre.

Sharmiela has just finished work as creative producer for Tamil movie Sila Nodigalil, helmed by Vinay Bharadwaj. Sila Nodigalil may be made in Kannada based on audience response

A function was held at Renukamba Preview Theater. "I am happy to work as a creative producer for this movie that was shot in London for 28 days. I was under tremendous pressure during the shoot as I was worried whether the director will manage to complete the shoot as per the schedule. Now, I am planning to act in a Kannada movie but I do not want to look after the production as it causes tension and it will be difficult for me to focus on acting," she says.

Sharmiela said she has to quarrel with actor-cum-director Pawan Kumar for not honouring the commitment he made to her. "When Pawan Kumar and I shared screen space in Gaalipata 2, he had agreed to direct this movie. He even visited London but later he advised me to find another director as he was busy with Dhoomam. He suggested Vinay Bharadwaj's name. I am happy with how the film scheduled for release on November 24 has turned out," says Sharmiela. **—Y Maheshwara Reddy**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On friendship

Choreographer-cum-director Mysuru Raju is over the moon about the release of his second Kannada movie as a director. Kuchuku is expected to hit the silver screen shortly. Raju's maiden movie Nrutyam was released in April 2019.

"I have been a choreographer in Sandalwood for the last 26 years. Kuchuku is about friendship with other elements such as sentiments, action and love that audiences can relate to. The movie was shot in and around Mysuru," said Raju.

The trailer and soundtrack of the movie was released recently in the presence of prominent personalities.

Thanking Raju for giving him a chance to play the lead, Arjun Chauhan said he began his career as an assistant director in Sandalwood. "Kuchuku is my third movie as an actor. As its title suggests, the movie is about the value of friendship. I am confident of its success at the box office," said Arjun.

Basavaraj Kumar, a theater artiste from Kalaburagi, plays the hero's friend while Shaik Shivaji from Mysuru plays the villain.

Directing his guru

Director Nikhil has got a rare opportunity. Nikhil, who worked as associate for veteran director B Ramamurthy, will handle the megaphone for a film in which his teacher himself plays the lead role. The movie Koneya Maathugalu (meaning last words will have veteran Ramamurthy, who began his career as director with the film Rudratandava in 1990 and directed around 30 Kannada movies till 2010.

"I am happy to get a chance to helm a movie in which my teacher and mentor B Ramamurthy Sir plays the lead. Ramamurthy Sir was comfortable while facing the camera. All these years, Ramamurthy Sir used to direct others. Now, he is acting in the movie helmed by me. Most of the cast are newcomers. My aim is to encourage and support newcomers to establish themselves," said Nikhil.

He said that he has helmed two movies –Ramaithili and 6 Days – in Kannada. "These two were shot during the lockdown. They will be released at theaters shortly," he said. He has also acted in Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil web series. "My assistants have prepared the script for me to act in two web series. I am also planning to direct a Kannada movie Mathe Preethsona," he said.